

Message Text

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R 170248 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

XMT AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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DAKAR POUCH BATHURST AND NOUAKCHOTT

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ACCRA, ANKARA, ATHENS,
BONN, BRUSSELS, CAPE TWON, COPENHAGEN, DAR ES SALAAM, FORT
LAMY, GENEVA, CONAKRY, HELSINKI, LAGOS, LISBON, LONDON,
LUXEMBOURG, LUSAKA, OTTAWA, PARIS, PRETORIA, REYKJAVIK, ROME,
STOCKHOLM, THE HAGUE, USUN NEW YORK, NATO, USNMR SHAPE APRIL
13, 1973 FROM OSLO IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

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SUBJ: CODEL DIGGS AND THE UN/ OAU OSLO CONFERENCE

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BEGIN SUMMARY. CONGRESSMAN CHARLES C. DIGG
S, CHAIRMAN OF
THE AFRICAN AFFAIRS SUB- COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, VISITED OSLO THIS WEEK TO ATTEND THE
UN/ OAU CONFERENCE AS AN " INDIVIDUAL EXPERT." DURING HIS
STAY, THE CONGRESSMAN CALLED ON ME FOR A FULL DISCUSSION
OF THE REASONS WHY THE US DID NOT ATTEND THE CONFERENCE.
THE CONGRESSMAN ALSO MET WITH MY COUNTRY TEAM FOR AN
EXTENDED QUESTION- AND- ANSWER SESSION, WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS
OF THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT' S FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. CONGRESS-
MAN DIGGS SPOKE IN COMMITTEE II OF THE CONFERENCE ON APRIL 11 ,
TO DISSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM THE US DECISION NOT TO ATTEND THE
CONFERENCE, AND ON APRIL 12, THE CONGRESSMAN GAVE A PRESS
CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE REPEATED MUCH OF HIS PREVIOUS DAY' S
INTERVENTION AND WAS SHARPLY CRITICAL OF WHAT HE TERMED
THE ADMINISTRATION' S " HARD LINE" WITH REGARD TO PARTICIPATION
IN FORUMS DEALING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS. END SUMMARY.

1. CODEL DIGGS, CONSISTING OF CONGRESSMAN CHARLES C. DIGGS,
JR., CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE DISTRICT COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN OF
THE AFRICAN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE, AND MEMBER OF THE HAYS SUBCOMMITTEE AS WELL, AND
MRS. GOLER T. BUTCHER, COUNSEL TO THE DIGGS SUBCOMMITTEE,
VISITED OSLO FROM APRIL 8 TO 13 TO PARTICIPATE, AS " INDIVIDUAL
EXPERTS", IN THE UN/ OAU CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF
COLONIALISM AND APARTHEID.

2. ON APRIL 9, THE FIRST DAY OF THE CONFERENCE, CONGRESSMAN
DIGGS AND MRS. BUTCHER CALLED ON ME IN MY OFFICE FOR A
DISCUSSION OF WHY THE US DECLINED TO PARTICIPATE. CONGRESSMAN
DIGGS MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE THINKS THE UNITED STATES SHOULD
HAVE PARTICIPATED OFFICIALLY, THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THE CONTRO-
VERSY OVER THE DECISION RAN DEEP WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT, AND
THAT HE WAS HAVING A DIFFICULT TIME EXPLAINING THE US DECISION
TO HIS FELLOW DELEGATE- EXPERTS, IN VIEW OF THE GENERALLY GOOD
RECORD THE UNITED STATES HAS HAD ON COLONIALISM AND APARTHEID
IN AFRICA.

3. I OUTLINED FOR HIM THE VARIOUS CONSIDERATIONS WHICH
WERE WEIGHED IN WASHINGTON BEFORE A DECISION WAS MADE ON
PARTICIPATION, TOLD HIM OF MY PERSONAL BELIEF THAT WE
WERE RIGHT IN NOT ATTENDING, ESPECIALLY SINCE NEITHER
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PORTUGAL NOR SOUTH AFRICA WAS INVITED, AND ADDED THAT

WHILE THE VALUE OF NATO AS AN ALLIANCE MAY LOOK DIFFERENT IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD, PRESERVING ALLIANCE UNITY IS AMONG OUR FOREMOST AIMS HERE IN OSLO. WE BOTH KNEW WE WOULD NOT CONVINCE THE OTHER, BUT THE INTERVIEW WAS CONDUCTED IN AN INFORMAL FASHION, AND WE PARTED ON FRIENDLY TERMS.

4. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE CODEL, ACCOMPANIED BY THE EMBASSY CONTROL OFFICER, CALLED ON KJELD VIBE, DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, AND KETIL BORDE, UN DIVISION CHIEF, IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR A DISCUSSION OF NORWEGIAN POLICY TOWARD AFRICA AND TOWARD PORTUGAL. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT NORWAY'S HAVING CRITICISED PORTUGUESE AFRICAN POLICY IN THE NATO CONTEXT, VIBE REVIEWED THE RECORD, BEGINNING WITH THE UNANIMOUS STORTING RESOLUTION INSTRUCTING THE GOVERNMENT TO DO SO IN THE SPRING OF 1971 AND GOING FORWARD THROUGH THE INTERVENTION BY FOREIGN MINISTER CAPPELEN AT LISBON IN 1971. VIBE SAID NORWAY HAS NOT MENTIONED IT IN SOME TIME, MAINLY BECAUSE IT DISTRACTS FROM THE LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE FOR THE NATO MINISTERS TO DEAL WITH DEFENSE AND DEFENSE-RELATED POLITICAL QUESTIONS AT THEIR TWICE-YEARLY SESSIONS. IN RESPONSE TO A FURTHER QUESTION, VIBE SAID IT HAS NOT BEEN DECIDED YET WHETHER THIS GOVERNMENT WILL RAISE PORTUGAL'S AFRICAN POLICIES AT THE COPENHAGEN MINISTERIAL. THE CONGRESSMAN SAID HE HOPES NORWAY DOES RAISE IT IN JUNE, AND THE MEETING THEN TURNED TO A RATHER FULL EXPOSITION BY BORDE ON THE EXTENT, KINDS, AND FUTURE OF NORWEGIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOUTHERN AFRICA.

5. ON APRIL 12, IN A MORNING SESSION WITH MEMBERS OF THE STORTING'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE -- INCLUDING AS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT KNUT FRYDENLUND, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE AND THE LABOR PARTY'S LEADING FOREIGN POLICY EXPERT -- CONGRESSMAN DIGGS AGAIN OUTLINED HIS REASONS FOR ATTENDING THE OAU CONFERENCE AND EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH HIS NORWEGIAN HOSTS ON THE SUBJECT OF AFRICAN POLICY, NORWAY'S AND AMERICAN'S. FRYDENLUND, IN PARTICULAR, SOLICITED THE CODEL'S VIEWS ON THE FUTURE INSIDE PORTUGAL, THE FUTURE OF GUINEA-BISSAU, AND THE AREAS WHERE NORWEGIAN ACTION COULD BE MOST USEFUL. MRS. BUTCHER SUGGESTED THAT NORWAY SHOULD PUSH AT EVERY INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR INVESTIGATION OF THE DAMAGE BEING DONE BY PORTUGUESE DEFOLIATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND HERBICIDE OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA; THE CONGRESSMAN REFERRED AGAIN TO THE NATO FORUM, URGING FRYDENLUND AND HIS COLLEAGUES TO KEEP INSISTING THAT PORTUGUESE AFRICAN POLICY BE RAISED IN NATO MEETINGS, NOT ONLY BY NORWAY BUT ALSO BY DENMARK, IF POSSIBLE. HE DEPRECIATED THE VALUE OF PORTUGAL

TO THE ALLIANCE AND DISMISSED ALSO THE STRATEGIC VALUE OF THE AZORES. FRYDENLUND WONDERED ALOUD WHETHER PORTUGUESE POLICY WAS PERHAPS ATTACKABLE ALSO ON THE GROUNDS OF WEAKENING THE ALLIANCE BY PUTTING SO MANY PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS OUTSIDE OF EUROPE.

6. IN HIS INTERVENTION IN COMMITTEE II OF THE CONFERENCE ON APRIL 11, AND IN HIS WELL- ATTENDED PRESS CONFERENCE ON APRIL 12, CONGRESSMAN DIGGS PUBLICLY DISSOCIATED HIMSELF FROM THE DECISION OF THE U. S. TO DECLINE THE UN INVITATION TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE. HE SAID HE SEES POSITIVE VALUE TO ATTENDANCE; HE BROUGHT THE CONFERENCE GREETINGS FROM WHAT HE TERMS THE " SECOND LARGEST BLACK NATION IN THE WORLD," CALLED THE US DECISION NOT TO ATTEND " A NEW PHASE IN THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION' S HARD LINE WITH REGARD TO PARTICIPATION IN FORUMS DEALING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS," SUGGESTED THAT THE US -- BY DECLINING TO ATTEND -- HAD " RELINQUISHED THE RIGHT TO COMMENT" ON THE PROCEEDINGS, EMPHASIZED THE " SENSE OF URGENCY", WHICH HE FEELS THE CONFERENCE HAS IMPARTED TO THE NEED FOR SOLUTIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, OUTLINED THE INGREDIENTS OF WHAT HE TERMED A POSSIBLE " OSLO MANIFESTO" (TEXT BEING POUCHED TO AF/ RA), AND EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST INTERNATIONAL CORPORATIONS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AS WELL AS TO KEEP UP THE PRESSURE ON THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED.

7. THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS FILMED, AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOVIET TV HAS APPROACHED NORWEGIAN TV FOR A COPY. FOUR MINUTES OF EXCERPTS WERE SHOWN ON THE LATE EVENING NORWEGIAN TELEVISION NEWSCAST, AND APRIL 13 MORNING PAPERS GIVE THE PRESS CONFERENCE LIGHT AND BASICALLY FACTUAL COVERAGE. CONSERVATIVE MORGENBLADET UNDER THE FRONT- PAGE HEADLINE, " CONGRESSMAN USES FOLKETS HUS AS FORUM FOR ATTACK ON NIXON," IMPLIES THAT MR. DIGGS' REMARKS WERE AIMED MAINLY AT US DOMESTIC AUDIENCE. ARBEIDERBLADET (LABOR) REPORTS THE CONGRESSMAN' S REMARKS BRIEFLY ON AN INSIDE PAGE UNDER THE SUBHEADLINE, " A MILLION DOLLARS FOR TRAINING OF PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS", WHILE THE SMALL CHRISTIAN PEOPLE' S PARTY PAPER VART LAND USES A TWO- COLUMN PAGE- ONE HEADLINE, " THE US LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUPPLIES PORTUGAL WITH PLANT POISON - CONGRESSMAN WITH STRONG CRITICISM OF US AFRICAN POLICY." CONSERVATIVE AFTENPOSTEN, NORWAY' S LARGEST PAPER, HAS NOT MENTIONED THE CONGRESSMAN.

8. FINALLY, IN A CANDID AND INFORMAL QUESTION- AND- ANSWER SESSION ON APRIL 12 WITH SOME 15 OFFICERS OF THE EMBASSY COUNTRY TEAM, CONGRESSMAN DIGGS COMMENTED ON THE CURRENT BATTLES BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF THE US GOVERNMENT;

DISCUSSED BUSSING AND RACIAL TENSIONS IN THE US; SPOKE OF HIS REASONS FOR ATTENDING THE UN/ OAU CONFERENCE; EXPLAINED THE ACTIVITIES OF HIS BLACK CAUCUS; SUGGESTED THAT AID TO NORTH VIETNAM IS VIRTUALLY DEAD; SAID HE COULD SENSE, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MANSFIELD AMENDMENT, " AN IMPPIENCE TO DEESCALATE," WHICH HE " HOPES" WILL NOT TURN INTO A NEW ISOLATIONISM: AND COMMENTED ON POPULAR AND CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES TOWARD THE FOREIGN SERVICE. CROWE UNQUOTE ROGERS

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